

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

AI  
1           1.       (Currently Amended) A method for use in a communications network  
2       having network elements for performing telephony services, comprising:  
3                    providing an interface to the network elements;  
4                    receiving requests, by the interface, from a software module ~~containing~~  
5 ~~elements representative of specifying performance of telephony services to be performed;~~  
6       and  
7                    sending, in response to requests of the module, commands over a packet-  
8 based network to one or more network elements involved in performing the ~~desired~~  
9       telephony services.

1           2.       (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface  
2       comprises providing representations of the network elements, the method further  
3       comprising accessing the representations to generate the commands to the one or more  
4       network elements.

1           3.       (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving requests from the  
2       software module comprises receiving requests from script modules.

1           4.       (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein providing the interface  
2       comprises providing a script engine.

1           5.       (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein providing the interface  
2       comprises providing a script engine and an application programming interface.

1           6.       (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface  
2       comprises providing a Simple Object Access Protocol component.

1           7.       (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface  
2 comprises providing a Common Object Request Broker Architecture component.

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1           8.       (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising representing the  
2 software module as a state machine having a plurality of states each representing an  
3 action corresponding to a telephony service.

1           9.       (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the software module  
2 receiving user input from which is generated the requests.

1           10.      (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the commands  
2 comprises sending the commands to one or more network elements selected from the  
3 group consisting of an integrated voice response system, a DTMF decoder, a voice mail  
4 system, and a recording system.

1           11.      (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing telephony services in a  
2 communications network having network elements comprising:  
3                   a software module containing instructions specifying performance of  
4 telephony services in the communications network; and  
5                   an interface layer comprising one or more components responsive to  
6 execution of the ~~modules~~ software module to provide commands over a packet-based  
7 network to corresponding network elements to perform the telephony services specified  
8 by the software module.

1           12.      (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer  
2 comprises representations of the network elements.

1           13.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer  
2 comprises a communications component to send the commands to the network elements.

A) 1           14.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the communications  
2 component comprises an Object Request Broker.

1           15.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the communications  
2 component comprises an application programming interface.

1           16.    (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the commands  
2 may include Session Initiation Protocol messages.

1           17.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the software module  
2 comprises a script.

1           18.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the interface layer  
2 comprises a script engine.

1           19.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the software module  
2 comprises a Java object.

1           20.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer  
2 comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol component.

1           21.    (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer  
2 comprises a Common Object Request Broker Architecture component.

A1

1           22.     (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telephony network having  
2 network elements capable of performing various telephony services, comprising:  
3                   means for storing representations of telephony services;  
4                   means for communicating with the network elements; and  
5                   means for executing the storing means to specify performance of a  
6 telephony service, the communicating means providing, in response to execution of the  
7 storing means, commands over a packet-based network to the one or more network  
8 elements involved in performing the ~~desired~~ telephony service.

1           23.     (Cancelled)

1           24.     (Currently Amended) An article including one or more machine-readable  
2 storage media containing instructions for providing telephony services in a  
3 communications network, the instructions when executed causing a controller to:  
4                   receive requests from a telephony service software module specifying  
5 plural telephony tasks; and  
6                   send commands over a packet-based network to one or more network  
7 elements in the communications network in response to the requests to perform the  
8 specified telephony tasks.

1           25.     (Original) The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed  
2 cause the controller to send commands according to a Command Object Request Broker  
3 Architecture protocol.

1           26.     (Original) The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed  
2 cause the controller to perform one or more of the tasks selected from the group  
3 consisting of play recording, receive dual tone multi-frequency signals, receive voice  
4 data, access voice mail, and forward a call.

1           27.     (Currently Amended) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave  
2     comprising instructions that when executed cause a system to:  
3                 receive requests specifying telephony services from a software module;  
4     and  
5                 generate commands over a packet-based network to network elements in  
6     response to the request to perform the telephony services.

A2 1           28.     (New) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the commands comprises  
2     sending Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) messages.

1           29.     (New) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the commands over the  
2     packet-based network comprises sending the commands over an Internet Protocol (IP)  
3     network.

1           30.     (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving requests specifying  
2     performance of telephony services comprises receiving requests specifying performance  
3     of telephony services over the packet-based network.

1           31.     (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the representations of the  
2     network elements comprise representations of one or more of the following network  
3     elements: an integrated voice response system, a DTMF decoder, a voice mail system,  
4     and a recording system.

1           32.     (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the packet-based network  
2     comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

1           33.     (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the software module contains  
2     instructions specifying performance of telephony services over the packet-based network.

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1           34.   (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the software module contains  
2 instructions specifying performance of telephony services over the Internet Protocol (IP)  
3 network.

1           35.   (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the packet-based network  
2 comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the storing means stores representations  
3 of telephony services over the IP network.

1           36.   (New) The article of claim 24, wherein sending commands over the  
2 packet-based network comprises sending commands over an Internet Protocol (IP)  
3 network.

1           37.   (New) The article of claim 36, wherein receiving requests from the  
2 telephony service software module specifying plural telephony tasks comprises receiving  
3 requests from the telephony service software module specifying plural telephony tasks  
4 over the IP network.

1           38.   (New) The article of claim 24, wherein sending the commands comprises  
2 sending the commands to one or more of the following network elements: an integrated  
3 voice response system, a DTMF decoder, a voice mail system, and a recording system.

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